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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 20 | Humidity 90% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 82,001 | Nifty 25,083 | Gold 99,419 | Silver 1,13,630 | Dollar 87.30 | Euro 101.41 | GBP 117.21

EXCESS BAGGAGE

Daily commuters worry extra luggage charges make city's already costly metro system even less affordable

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HITCH A RIDE

As a few bike taxi operators quietly resume services, state govt clarifies that High Court has not lifted restrictions

PAGE 7

Noise pollution readings show average decibel values are much higher around educational institutions, residential areas in the day and night and silent zones are anything but silent

TURN DOWN THE VOLUME

Rules, penalties in place but enforcement is rare; awareness nil

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The RV College of Engineering (RVCE) on Mysore Road falls in the silent zone of the city. As per noise pollution rules by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the noise levels in the area during the day should not exceed 50 decibels (dB), and during the night, it should be under 40 decibels.

However, noise pollution readings from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) show that the monthly average decibel values around RVCE exceed 82 decibels during the day as well as at night. The maximum decibel value recorded in July in the area was 106.9 dB during the day and 107.2 dB during the night.

Data from KSPCB's noise monitoring stations show that noise pollution levels in silent and residential areas have worsened. As per CPCB's rules, the permissible sound level (dB) in a silent zone during the day is 50 dB and during nighttime is 40 dB.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

"Honking, faulty silencers are sources of noise pollution from vehicular traffic; unapproved loudspeaker usage over an extended period also leads to noise pollution

—Raja Kannan, anti-noise pollution activist

Rooms with a view

Karnataka's hotel tariffs much higher than several international destinations such as Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand

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Karnataka's hotel tariffs are significantly higher than in several popular international destinations, a factor that could be discouraging tourists, according to details tabled in the Legislative Council.

In a written reply on August 14, the state government acknowledged that travel and accommodation costs in Karnataka surpass those in countries such as Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka — all of which remain attractive and affordable options for travellers.

The Council was informed that while Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka are developing nations offering lower travel costs, Karnataka maintains a higher price point despite its wealth of historical, cultural, and natural attractions. Average hotel room rates in Karnataka range from ₹5,000 to ₹6,000 per night, while in these countries it is ₹3,000–₹4,200.

By contrast, developed nations such as England, Japan, Germany, and the United States charge far higher rates, but the state government argues that even they do not consistently provide better quality or more professional hospitality services than Karnataka. Countries like South Africa, Russia, and Spain have hotel tariffs similar to those in the state.

Defending the pricing structure, Tourism Minister HK Patil said the government said Karnataka offers superior service quality

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Festive jam

Koramangala SOCIAL hosts Sass & Strings: A Fake Festive Party with live music, jam sessions, and festive-inspired performances presented by Zivame x Maybe It's a Jam. **Where: Koramangala SOCIAL, 7th Block, Bengaluru; When: August 23, 5 pm onwards**

02 Dance tribute

Witness Sant Tulasidas by Guru Acharya Raksha Karthik and disciples, followed by Shashti Varna Chakra, a 60-composition Bharatanatyam masterpiece by Karnataka Kalashree Guru Sathyanarayana Raju, marking his Shashtipoorthi celebrations. **Where: Medai – The Stage, 15, KHB MIG Colony, 5th Block, Koramangala; When: August 23, 5 pm**

03 Comedy illusion

Enjoy SmaranniK stages Drishtikanya, a comedy of illusions inspired by Daphne du Maurier's The Blue Lenses, directed by Sayandeb Bhattacharya. Staged in Bengali with English subtitles. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar 2nd Phase; When: August 30, 3.30 pm & 7.30 pm**

04 Quiz night

JP Nagara SOCIAL presents Quiztastic Nights, a fun general knowledge quiz spanning pop culture, music, current affairs, and more, with exciting prizes, bonus trivia, and complimentary drinks. **Where: JP Nagara SOCIAL; When: August 23, 6 pm onwards**

05 Global fusion

Sangamam brings together violinist Jyotsna Srikanth, oud artist Smadj, and tabla maestro Gurumurthy Vaidya in a rare instrumental collaboration blending Indian, Middle Eastern, and world sounds. **Where: Windmills; When: August 22 & 23, 7 pm onwards**

Anxiety over baggage fee clouding Blue Line launch

Daily commuters argue extra luggage charges make city's already costly metro system even less affordable, urging authorities to roll back fare hikes and restore accessibility

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Bengaluru commuter's social media post has sparked debate over the city's metro fare system, after he revealed being charged an additional Rs 30 for carrying a bag on the train. Avinash Chanchal, a climate activist, took to X (formerly Twitter) on Friday to share his experience, writing that he was "stunned" by the charge. He argued that Bengaluru's metro is already among the costliest in the country, and the added baggage fee only makes public transport less accessible.

The tweet drew wide attention online, with many users echoing similar frustrations. Some felt the policy penalises everyday travellers who may need to carry work equipment or shopping bags, while others questioned why one of India's most expensive metros should impose extra costs on passengers. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has clarified that the charge is part of its standard baggage rules. Commuters can carry one small bag free of cost as long as it does not exceed 60 cm × 45 cm × 25 cm in dimension and weighs under 15 kilograms. Any oversized or additional baggage requires a separate luggage ticket priced at Rs 30. Officials say the measure is meant to ensure passenger comfort and manage limited space inside coaches.

In March, Greenpeace activists staged a symbolic protest inside a metro train, drawing attention

> **"The BMTC airport buses, though they cost around Rs 300, would be more comfortable considering I would not be required to go through the hassle of changing lines**
> – Frequent commuter

to the growing anxiety around affordable and inclusive public transport in Bengaluru. The demonstration urged authorities to roll back the fare hike and consider policies that do not price out daily commuters. Data released alongside the campaign showed that metro ridership has fallen significantly since the new fares came into effect—dropping by 13 percent overall and recording a sharp 20 percent dip in February alone. Activists argue that these figures reflect how rising costs are directly impacting accessibility for ordinary citizens.

The long-awaited metro link to Kempegowda International Airport is finally on the horizon, with the BMRCL confirming that services will begin in 2026. The project, part of Namma Metro's Phase 2A and 2B network expansion, will be rolled out in two stages. The first section, running between the airport terminal and Hebbal, is expected to open between June and September 2026. The second stage, linking Hebbal with KR Puram, is likely to be completed by the end of 2026. Stretching across 56 kilometres from Silk Board to the airport, the Blue Line will include major stops such as Airport City and KIAL Terminals. While officials say the route will drastically cut travel times for air passengers and improve connectivity for thousands of daily commuters, air passengers are worried about being slapped with exorbitant fees for the luggage they are bound to carry.

Blue Line to span 56 km, connecting Silk Board to Airport with key stops at Airport City and KIAL Terminals

"As a frequent air passenger who lives at a walkable distance from the Attiguppe metro station, my time commuting to the airport would significantly reduce when the Blue line is inaugurated. However, if I'm charged additionally for the luggage I carry, this mode of transport will no longer be convenient in terms of finance. The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) airport buses, though they cost around Rs 300, would be more comfortable considering I would not be required to go through the hassle of changing lines. The purpose of the metro being available right by the airport would be defeated due to the additional fee. The state must work towards abolishing the fare to make public transport more accessible," said a frequent commuter, who travels within the country for work.

50% rebate on e-Challan fines till September 12

The Karnataka government has announced a 50 per cent rebate on fines for pending cases recorded under the police department's traffic e-Challan system. The concession will be valid only between August 23 and September 12, 2025, according to an order issued on Thursday.

This marks the fourth such relief measure by the government. Earlier, similar one-time concessions were granted in February, March, and July 2023, allowing motorists to settle dues at half the penalty amount for cases registered before February 11, 2023. The latest decision follows requests from the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority and the Bengaluru Transport and Road Safety Commissioner, who sought more time for vehicle owners to clear their outstanding challans.

Officials clarified that the rebate applies strictly to cases registered under the traffic e-Challan system and must be closed within the notified window. The Transport Department had also recommended allowing pending cases before 2018–19 to be settled at the same discount. After consideration, the government approved the extension till September 12, 2025, stressing that the rebate is a one-time opportunity for citizens to regularize their pending traffic violations without bearing the full penalty.

— BMB

Rehabilitation centres planned for violent strays

BBMP is preparing to train aggressive stray dogs—those prone to attacking children, women, and the elderly—similar to police and army canines. The decision follows the death of 68-year-old Seetappa, fatally mauled by strays in Kodigehalli Telecom Layout on July 28. A post-mortem confirmed the attack, after which BBMP announced ₹5 lakh compensation to his family. Taking suo motu cognisance, the Lokayukta directed BBMP to isolate and treat violent dogs at specialised care units. Responding, the civic body's animal husbandry wing plans to hire canine experts for treatment and behavioural training. Monitoring centres will be established in each BBMP zone, where captured dogs showing violent tendencies will be rehabilitated. If experts certify behavioural improvement, the dogs will be released back into their original habitats.

— BMB

Ward restructuring deadline set for November

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D K Shivakumar informed the Legislative Council that the government has written to the Election Commission regarding preparations for Palike elections, with ward restructuring scheduled to be completed by November 1, 2025. Responding to a query on the implementation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Act 2024, he said the Act came into effect on May 15, 2025, bringing BBMP under the GBA's jurisdiction. Subsequently, on July 19, 2025, five municipal bodies were formed. Objections were invited until August 18, 2025, covering Dasarahalli, RR Nagar, Padmanabhanagar, Mahadevapura, and Yeshwanthpur, with further areas to be added later.

He clarified that a special team led by commissioners is supervising the ward restructuring process, and the government has already filed an affidavit in court within the prescribed time. Notifications on ward formations will be issued after restructuring. Acknowledging members' calls to conduct elections at the earliest, Shivakumar assured the House that their suggestion was fully accepted. **— BMB**

Leopard spotted in Nelamangala, forest alert

After a leopard was spotted in a CCTV camera in Kambula Village near Nelamangala on Monday night, the Karnataka Forest Department says the department is on its toes.

According to Santosh Kumar G, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru Rural Division, the Department is on high alert. If the leopard is found outside the forest area in and around any of the villages in the surrounding area, it will be captured and released inside the forest.

"We have moved a leopard-catching cage in the area. We have not spotted the big cat after it was caught on CCTV camera on Monday night. However, we are ready in case we need to carry out a capture and release operation," assured Kumar.

— BMB

City preps for festive season

Police ban DJs, tighten norms for Ganesha, Eid Milad celebrations

With Ganesha Chaturthi and Eid Milad around the corner, the Bengaluru police have begun holding a series of peace meetings across all police station limits with festival organisers and community leaders to ensure smooth conduct of the celebrations.

Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said that strict guidelines have been issued regarding processions, security arrangements and use of public spaces.

Organisers have been directed to follow designated routes for processions, install CCTV cameras for security, and seek prior permission for banners and flex boards.

The Commissioner clarified that use of DJs and loud music will not be permitted during the festivities. "Procession routes are being jointly inspected with BBMP officials, and I personally inspected Tannery Road, an important procession route and have asked the BBMP to clear the civil works," he said.

Police have also cautioned that provocative slogans or activities that could hurt religious sentiments will not be allowed during processions. Social media is under watch to prevent circulation of inflammatory content.

Officials further stressed that procession routes will be inspected before granting permission, and civic works like roads, barricading, and lighting will be ensured in coordination with BBMP and BESCOM. Organisers will be required to give an undertaking holding themselves responsible for any eventuality, and obtain an NOC as part of the permission.

Go eco-friendly

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has directed local bodies across the state to strictly obtain written consent from Ganesha Chaturthi committees that they will not use Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols during the upcoming festival. He said that permissions for setting up pandals and organising festivities will be issued only after receiving such undertakings.

Addressing a press conference on Thursday, Khandre urged devotees to adopt eco-friendly clay idols, noting that their immersion causes no harm to lakes and waterbodies. "Around 90% of idols in Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, and Uttara Kannada are made of clay. If it can happen in these three districts, why can't it be achieved in others too?" he asked. He appealed to the State Pollution Control Board, district administrations, and local bodies to launch intensive awareness campaigns highlighting the toxic effects of PoP idols.

Woman booked for ₹28L online shopping spree using husband's account

The cyber crime police have registered an FIR against a woman for allegedly making online purchases worth over ₹28 lakh using her husband's account. Her parents have also been named as co-accused in the case.

According to the complaint filed by a city-based doctor, his wife, whom he married in March 2023, accessed his device, a Samsung S7 tablet, and went on a shopping spree between June 2023 and November 2024.

Police said that over 2,500 products amounting to ₹28,74,545.42 were purchased online, allegedly for her parents. The complainant stated that the couple had opened a joint bank account three months after marriage, which she misused to access his funds.

Based on the complaint, police have registered a case under the IT Act and various sections of the BNS. Further investigations underway. **BMB**

10-year-old dies in BMTC bus–bike crash

A 10-year-old girl died after a two-wheeler collided with a BMTC bus near Kogilu Cross around 8.20 am on Wednesday. The child, seated on the pillion of the bike, died on the spot while the rider and another passenger sustained minor injuries. According to BMTC, CCTV footage from the bus showed that at 8.18 am, the two-wheeler rider, traveling with two children, entered the main road. Due to road work and another vehicle halting ahead, the rider applied brakes, lost control, and fell under the left rear wheel of the bus. **BMB**

This is how your voice was heard

Water connection restored at Richards Park, waste cleared, silt removed from drain in Hutchins Road; residents want officials to focus on regular maintenance work

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Residents' Welfare Associations from several Bengaluru East localities have lauded Bangalore Mirror for launching its flagship citizen-connect initiative. Residents expressed satisfaction, noting that the platform has helped them highlight long-pending civic issues and facilitated redressal in some cases. They appreciated the newspaper's proactive role in bridging the gap between citizens and authorities, calling the initiative a meaningful step toward resolving neighbourhood-level concerns.

MY VOICE BangaloreMirror

On August 10, the Bangalore Mirror team visited KSFC Layout, Richards Park, Komala Junction, and the Banaswadi Flyover to interact with members of Residents' Welfare Associations. The visit aimed to gather feedback on the functioning of civic bodies, including the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). Residents narrated how the apathy of officials had forced them to suffer, with repeated reminders failing to resolve long-standing problems.

The BM team sincerely made an attempt to take those grievances such as broken footpaths, accumulated waste, lack of maintenance of Richards Park, shortage or no supply of drinking water for weeks together, choked drains with waste and debris, and the long-pending projects including the rotary flyover near Maruthi Seva Nagar to the authorities concerned.

The BM has succeeded in convincing the authorities to attend to the problems. The BBMP authorities and BWSSB engineers became proactive to fix some of the problems. "We have restored water supply to Richards Town. Some of the residents, including the BM, complained about the shortage of drinking water in Richards Town", said BWSSB assistant engineer.

BANGALORE IMPACT MIRROR

The residents of Richards Town are happy with the BBMP Horticulture Department taking up maintenance of the park. "I am happy with BBMP authorities taking measures to remove waste on the road. Richards Town is one of the localities in Bengaluru where flexes are not allowed. I am also happy to come across the measures for the upkeep of Richards Park. However, I want the BBMP authorities

> **"I am happy BBMP removed waste and improved Richards Park's upkeep. But they must also asphalt bad roads and fix broken footpaths** – Ahmedali, President, Richards Town Residents Association

to asphalt the roads that are in bad condition and fix the broken footpaths", said Ahmedali, president, Richards Town Residents Association, advising the BM team to continue its efforts on focusing on civic issues.

Appreciating the Bangalore Mirror team for the initiative, Albert R, Founder Member of Cooke Town Residents' Association, said that residents on Hutchins Road 6th Cross are happy with the BBMP authorities for removing silt from the roadside drain and the railway authorities for constructing the compound wall. "We want to thank Bangalore Mirror for highlighting our problems. The road was known for flooding whenever it rains heavily. With the railway authorities desilting the storm water drain and the BBMP authorities cleaning the roadside drain, there will be no flooding on this street. Water supply is also improved to some extent", said Albert.

Som Thomas, a resident on 6th Cross Hutchins Road said water supply has improved after media intervention though it is yet to reach the optimum level. "Now, we are getting Cauvery water twice a week. I want the BWSSB engineers to ensure sufficient water supply", said Som Thomas.

(1) Workers removing silt from the drain that was the reason for flooding on Hutchins Road 6th Cross; (2) The condition of the road after BBMP removed garbage; (3) Maintenance work in progress at Richards Park

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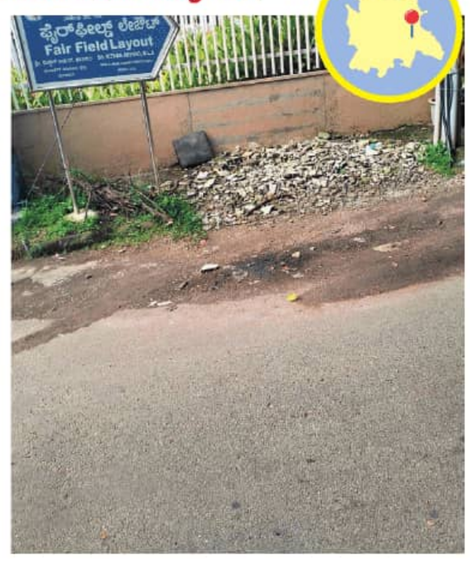
Civic neglect
Victoria Layout

Palmgrove Road in Victoria Layout has been left dug up for white-topping work for eight months. Despite repeated complaints, civic authorities remain unresponsive, causing daily inconvenience and frustration among residents relying on this key stretch.

Debris dumped
Fairfield Layout



Debris piled on the footpath along Fairfield Layout, Race Course Road, has remained uncleared for weeks, forcing pedestrians onto the road and raising serious safety concerns.

Waste zone
Chunchagatta

Unattended garbage on Chunchagatta Main Road, Konanakunte, Shamanna Garden, has caused inconvenience to residents, creating foul smell, and hygiene issues.

Hardly any challans issued to noise pollution offenders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, while the RVCE station recorded a much higher average noise level in July, the average monthly nighttime noise levels at NIMHANS, another silent zone in the city, were found to be 35% higher than the permissible limit of 40 dB.

Residential areas are suffering too.

While the nighttime monthly average of decibel value was found to be 28% higher than the permissible limit of 45 dB in Domlur, it was 38.7% higher in BTM Layout.

In SG Halli, another residential area in the city, decibel levels were 77% higher during the night and 42% higher during the day.

Anti-noise pollution activists in the city say the major sources of noise pollution are traffic, construction activities, and loudspeakers. While there are rules and penalties in place for these offences, the lack of enforcement is the issue. "Unnecessary honking, use of illegal horns, and faulty silencers are sources of noise pollution from vehicular traffic. Similarly, unapproved loudspeaker usage over an extended period also leads to noise pollution. These apart, nighttime construction activities during prohibited hours have become the norm in the city," said Raja Kannan, anti-noise pollution activist.

Notably, the Karnataka High Court, in 2012, passed an order stating that construction activities should not be allowed between 10 pm and 6 am. However, this rule is blatantly violated across Bengaluru.

Experts also underline the lack of awareness about noise pollution rules among citizens.

"The rules around noise pollution levels near hospitals and educational institutions have been framed for good reasons. Hospitals, in the past, have raised concerns around the issue, citing slow recovery of patients due to noise pollution from vehicular traffic. Similarly, the scholastic performance of children is compromised due to traffic noise. There are laws in place against unnecessary honking between 10 pm and 6 am in residential areas. However, most citizens are unaware of these rules leading to violations," said Rajkumar Dugar, an anti-noise pollution crusader in the city.

Few cases booked

While experts blame unnecessary honking and rampant use of shrill horns as primary reasons behind this surge in decibel levels, the number of challans issued by Bengaluru Traffic Police under these heads is meager.

In the first six months of this year, BTP has issued 49 challans for honking at prohibited areas, 5,684 challans for shrill horns, and 1,965 cases of defective silencers.

"Looking at the pollution levels, this is just a drop in the bucket. BTP should come down heavily on offenders before the issue becomes an epidemic," said an expert.

DC cracks down on stunt riders

Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner J Jagadish has ordered strict action against youth performing dangerous stunts like wheelies on city roads. At the District Road Safety Committee meeting on Wednesday, he directed transport officials to book offenders and permanently cancel their driving licenses and vehicle registrations. The move follows complaints of stunts on Hebbal flyover and Kunigal Road, causing public inconvenience.

The DC instructed the Education Department to make road safety awareness programs mandatory in schools, ensure students cross roads with attendants, check school vehicle drivers, and prevent overcrowding in vans. Officials have also been told to identify accident-prone spots, install warning boards, and use GPS mapping for faster ambulance response. — BMB

RTO officer accuses senior of harassment

Woman inspector's plaint sparks probe into harassment charges, officer says complaint is conspiracy against him for not giving desired posting

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A 47-year-old woman Motor Vehicle Inspector (MVI) working at the Nelamangala Regional Transport Office (RTO) has accused her senior officer of sexual harassment. Based on her complaint, the Madanayakanahalli police registered a case on Monday against Rajkumar, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) and in-charge of the office for the past month, under Section 75 (Sexual Harassment) of the Karnataka Civil Services Act.

According to the complaint, the woman officer alleged that Rajkumar ogled at her inappropriately, forced her to remove her jacket, and even suggested she "cooperate" with him in exchange for a favourable duty posting. She stated that the incident occurred in Rajkumar's chamber, where he allegedly told her to either comply or write to him.

The complainant further alleged that the ARTO's behaviour was sexually inappropriate and intimidating. Unable to bear the harassment, she informed her family before approaching the police. Based on her statement, a case was registered, and an investigation is underway.

> **"The complainant was on probation and wore extra stars on her shoulder strap, which is against rules. To hide this, they wore jackets. I instructed them to follow protocol"**
>
> –Rajkumar, ARTO

When confronted, Rajkumar denied all allegations, claiming the complaint was a "conspiracy" against him because he refused to grant the complainant her desired posting. He alleged that some staff members colluded with her after he pulled them up for violating rules.

"The complainant was on probation and wore additional stars on her shoulder strap, which is against regulations. To hide this, they wore jackets. I instructed them to follow protocol," Rajkumar told reporters. He also claimed the staff skipped the Independence Day function and demanded postings with specific drivers. "They said they had spent money to get the job and wanted to recover it. I refused to allow such irregularities," he added.

Rajkumar asserted that the meeting was recorded on CCTV cameras in his chamber, where three staff members were present. "The footage will show no such discussion took place," he maintained.

Police said they are verifying CCTV footage and recording statements from staff members as part of the investigation. While the case primarily concerns sexual harassment allegations, it has also exposed possible corruption in the posting system and internal disputes within the RTO.

Officials indicated that if the bribery allegations are substantiated, separate charges could follow. For now, the focus remains on establishing the facts surrounding the harassment complaint. The case raises concerns on workplace safety, power misue, and transparency and ongoing probe.

K'taka mining firm directors in dock over London, Oxford assets

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has ordered the seizure of immovable properties worth approximately Rs 61.35 crore under Section 37A(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, in a major crackdown on alleged foreign exchange violations by the promoters of a Karnataka-based mining company.

According to the ED press release issued on Thursday, the properties belong to Shantesh Gureddi and his wife Jyothi Shantesh Gureddi, both Directors of M/s Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports Pvt. Ltd. (SKMEPL). They are linked to foreign assets held illegally outside India.

The ED's action follows intelligence input from the Income Tax Department.

– IANS

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New chapter: Sam spills the tea on fresh approach she is taking in her career

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Activists condemn political remarks undermining Dharmasthala SIT probe

Women's rights groups demand neutrality, witness protection, and justice as political statements risk undermining sensitive investigations into gender violence

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A collective of women's rights organisations and activists under the banner Naveddu Nilladiddare (If We Do Not Rise) – Karnataka has strongly objected to recent political remarks regarding the ongoing Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into alleged atrocities in Dharmasthala. The group accused leaders across party lines of attempting to prejudice the investigation and divert attention from justice for women victims.

The network, which works on issues concerning gender minorities, women workers, and marginalised communities, said in a statement that some elected representatives have made "deeply alarming and condemnable" comments undermining the independence of the SIT.

In particular, the group criticised the Home Minister's claim in the Legislative Assembly that the SIT was formed mainly "to clear the stains on the Dharmadhikari of Dharmasthala." According to the activists, such remarks compromise the credibility of the probe and risk intimidating witnesses. "This rhetoric poses a direct threat to emerging witnesses, who may fear reprisals, and contravenes the government's constitutional duty to ensure a fair, transparent, and just investigation," the statement read.

Dharmasthala, one of Karnataka's most prominent pilgrimage sites, has come under scrutiny for what campaigners describe as a troubling pattern of violence against women spanning decades. Cases such as the disappearance and murder of college student Soujanya in 2012 and the brutal killing of Padmalatha in 1986 continue to stir public anger among communities seeking justice.

Demands include stronger safety measures at pilgrimage sites and public campaigns reinforcing zero tolerance for violence against women in sacred spaces

Activists allege that several such incidents, including unsolved disappearances of women, were never properly investigated due to "shoddy or deliberately botched-up" inquiries. These allegations resurfaced earlier this year after a whistleblower—a former sanitation worker—gave sworn testimony before the SIT, claiming systematic abuse, intimidation, and long-standing cover-ups within influential networks.

In response to mounting pressure, the Karnataka government constituted the SIT in July 2025 to reinvestigate the cases. Rights groups initially welcomed the move, calling it a significant step toward accountability and transparency. However, recent political statements, they argue, risk derailing the effort and damaging public trust in the investigative process.

> **"This rhetoric poses a direct threat to emerging witnesses, who may fear reprisals, and contravenes the government's duty to ensure a fair investigation**
> – Naveddu Nilladiddare - Karnataka

The women's network issued a set of demands to the state government. Foremost among them is complete support for the SIT's work, including resources for forensic analysis, excavations, and witness protection. The group has also called for a reinvestigation of all related cases, including those of Soujanya and Padmalatha, ensuring that no detail is overlooked.

Activists further demanded that public representatives, including the Home Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, and Minister for Women and Child Development, retract their remarks. "All public representatives should uphold neutrality to avoid intimidating witnesses or victims' families," the statement said.

Other demands include immediate witness protection measures, stronger safety protocols at pilgrimage sites, and the creation of an independent oversight committee comprising women's rights experts to monitor the SIT's progress. The collective also sought compensation and rehabilitation for affected families and state-wide campaigns to reinforce that violence against women contradicts religious and cultural values.

Beyond Dharmasthala, the organisations pointed to a wider pattern of gender-based violence in rural and religious settings. They urged the government to strengthen gender-sensitive policing and investigation protocols across Karnataka for lasting change.

"Women's safety cannot be compromised in the name of protecting reputations. This has been the continued adharma of patriarchy that legitimises and condones violence against women," the statement said.

Looking ahead, the collective plans awareness drives across the state to foster public debate and greater civil society involvement in shaping gender-sensitive investigative processes and policies that prioritise justice over political or religious influence.

"The SIT must be empowered to uncover the full truth, and any statements undermining this process must be retracted immediately," the group said. "We stand with victims' families and demand justice that restores faith in our institutions—be they secular or spiritual."

Mysuru Dasara implements safety protocols

Mysuru district administration has tightened safety measures for this year's Dasara Jamboo Savari following the tragic stampede during the RCB victory celebrations at Bengaluru's Chinnaswamy Stadium on June 4. To prevent overcrowding, the number of spectators inside the Mysore Palace premises has been reduced from 59,000 to 48,000. The state government has also issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for large gatherings, cutting

11,000 seats, said Dasara Special Officer Reddy and Deputy Commissioner G Lakshmikant. Entry into weak and unsafe buildings along the procession route, including Lansdowne Building, Devaraja Market, Visvesvaraya Building, and Ayurveda College, is completely banned. People will also be barred from climbing trees, towers, or rooftops. Seating arrangements will be closely monitored. Meanwhile, Dasara Gold Cards, offering special event access, will be available online within a month. — BMB

Karnataka bans Out-of-State grazing

Karnataka has banned grazing of cattle brought from other states in its forests, Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre informed the Assembly. The move comes after reports during the investigation into the deaths of five tigers at Male Mahadeshwara Hills revealed that thousands of cattle from Tamil Nadu were harming Karnataka's forests. Khandre assured that the decision would not affect local shepherds and that officials have been instructed accordingly. He added that a resurvey of deemed forests is underway as per a Supreme Court directive, to include or exclude areas based on findings. For non-forest use of forest land, applications must be made via the official portal, with mandatory fees and alternate land provision, following legal norms. — BMB

BBMP fixes black spot near its head office; citizens urge vigilance

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Pedestrians, auto rickshaw drivers, and motorists are happy with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) beautifying the black spot on the private building premises on Devanga Hostel Road near the BBMP Head Office. They emphasised the need for BBMP authorities to direct the property owner to keep the premises clean.

The move comes days after Bangalore Mirror published a report on August 20 titled BBMP fails to keep its own backyard clean, highlighting how a festering black spot near the Palike headquarters symbolized the city's flailing cleanliness drive.

Environmentalists and residents, while appreciating the clean-up, stressed that such efforts should be consistent and proactive rather than reactive. Dattatreya T Devare, an environmentalist, welcomed the clean-up but urged BBMP to take responsibility beyond responding to media reports. "I want to thank the BBMP authorities for beautifying the perennial black spot, but they should not wait for media coverage to act. The authorities must ensure the city is free from garbage and black spots and keep a constant vigil," he said.

However, not everyone is impressed with Palike's effort. AR Shashikumar, a High Court advocate and resident of Sampangi Rama Nagar, expressed dissatisfaction. "Though the premises have been cleaned, it is their responsibility to prevent black spots from forming in the first place. They are not doing anyone a favour by clearing garbage. The BBMP, especially its health department, needs to remove the garbage accumulating on roads in and around Sampangi Rama Nagar," he said.

Auto rickshaw driver Pavan Kumar N, while appreciating the clean-up, insisted that property owners should also be held accountable. "There is a provision to penalize property owners who fail to maintain their vacant sites or premises. I do not know if BBMP plans to impose a penalty on the building owner, but it is necessary to ensure cleanliness across the city," he said.

Responding to the criticism, BBMP Senior Health Inspector Anis Fatima said measures had been taken to maintain hygiene and prevent disease. "We have sprayed insecticide to control mosquito breeding and cleaned the premises. We have also directed the person in charge of the building to maintain cleanliness and intend to issue a notice to the property owner," she said. Residents and civic activists maintain that sustained monitoring and enforcement—not one-off beautification efforts—are key to keeping Bengaluru's neighbourhoods clean and free of black spots.

Residents demand BBMP to remove garbage regularly and prevent black spots rather than acting only after complaints

BM reported on August 20, about vacant plot near BBMP office being trashed

To be or not to be? That is the bike taxi question

As some bike taxis hit the road, govt clarifies HC has not permitted services to operate

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

After a suspension of over two months, bike taxis returned to Bengaluru's roads on Wednesday, following an oral observation by the Karnataka High Court asking the State not to initiate coercive or punitive action against drivers. Confusion over bike-taxis deepened on Thursday with reports of clashes between auto rickshaw and bike-taxi drivers in the city.

On August 20, a division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi, while hearing appeals filed by Rapido, Uber, and Ola, noted that operating bike taxis is permissible under law. The judges also questioned the State's policy stance, remarking that the government's decision to prohibit the service effectively blocks a legitimate trade.

Despite this, the bench refrained from issuing any interim written order and adjourned the matter for further hearing on September 22.

Why ops started again?

Aggregator platforms like Rapido and Uber switched on the bike-taxi option in Bengaluru following the oral observation, interpreting it as a temporary window to operate. Bookings were reportedly being accepted across parts of the city from Wednesday night. Ola, however, has stayed away from relaunching the service.

Next High Court hearing on the bike taxi ban is set for September 22

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy clarified on Thursday, "The High Court has not permitted bike-taxis to resume. We have been given a month to take a decision, but enforcement against violations will continue. Any contempt will be brought to the notice of the court."

City-based advocate Nataraj Sharma told BM that the aggregators were misrepresenting the court's words. "There is no stay order. The apps are acting as though the oral observation itself is a licence to restart, which is against the law. This amounts to contempt," Sharma said. He further revealed that a formal letter had been submitted to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy demanding immediate action. The letter pointed out that no legal clearance had been given for aggregators to restart services, and any resumption amounted to a violation of both court orders and transport regulations. It also urged the state government to initiate contempt proceedings if aggregators continued to defy the ban.

For daily commuters, however, the sudden reappearance of bike-taxis brought both joy and confusion. Several users took to social media celebrating cheaper, faster options amid Bengaluru's traffic jams. One user exclaimed, "Rapido is back! This is such a relief after weeks of paying double for autos." Others remained skeptical about how long the service would last. "It feels good to have bike-taxis again, but I don't want to be stranded if they vanish tomorrow," said a commuter.

With the next High Court hearing set for September 22, the future of bike-taxis in Bengaluru hangs in the balance. Until then, riders, aggregators, and commuters are stuck in a grey zone, on the road but under constant legal and enforcement glare.

Background of the ban

Bike taxi operations in Karnataka came to a halt on June 16 when Uber, Ola, and Rapido removed the service option from their apps. This followed an April 2 ruling by a single-judge bench of the High Court, which upheld the government's ban. The court had then ordered operators to cease services by June 15.

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JLo back in the game one year after split

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Inauguration by :
Dr. B. G. Patil,
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Chief Guest :
Sri Sharanabasappa Darshanapur,
Hon'ble Minister for Small Scale Industries and Public Enterprises and Yadagiri District Incharge Minister
August Presence :
Smt. Sarojinidevi S. Patil
Honorary President, S. R. Patil Foundation, Kalaburagi
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Film Producer & Industrialist, Bengaluru
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Pandit Nagendra Ranapur & Team
All are Invited

State offers superior quality service, says govt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

compared to the aforementioned low-cost destinations. It pointed to the state's rich heritage and the professional standards of its hospitality industry as justifications for the higher tariffs. However, to make tourism more competitive and attract both domestic and international travellers, the Tourism Department has rolled out the Karnataka Tourism Policy 2024–29.

"Under this policy, ₹1,350 crore has been allocated for tourism development with the aim of attracting ₹8,000 crore in direct investment and creating 1.5 lakh jobs. So far, 25 hotel and allied projects worth ₹551.78 crore have been approved, with subsidies offered to boost the number of high-quality rooms", he said.

Monument adoption and luxury train

The government has expanded its Monument Viewing and Conservation Scheme, which allows entrepreneurs and NRIs to adopt monuments for development. In the first phase, over seven monuments have already been taken up under this initiative.

Patil said that in another move to lure high-end travellers, the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC), in partnership with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), relaunched the state's luxury train, The Golden Chariot, on December 21, 2024. Special itineraries such as Pride of Karnataka (5 nights–6 days) and Sojourn of the South (3 nights–4 days) are now on offer.

While the government maintains that Karnataka's pricing reflects its superior services and diverse attractions, industry observers caution that the state risks losing budget-conscious tourists to cheaper destinations.

The challenge, they say, lies in striking a balance between maintaining quality and offering competitive prices in a market where neighbouring and international alternatives are often more affordable.

Turf Club: 5 excise officials suspended

The Karnataka government has suspended five excise officials for deliberately delaying approval of the revised blueprint for the CL-4 license of Bangalore Turf Club. Despite the club applying on February 17, officials took 41 days instead of the mandated 21 days under the Sakala Act. An internal inquiry confirmed dereliction of duty, prompting disciplinary action and a recommendation for a departmental inquiry.

Those suspended include Bengaluru Urban Excise Deputy Commissioner Shivalingappa Banahatti, Superintendent Syed Shahabuddin Bokari, Deputy Superintendent Aboobacker A Mujawar, Inspector L Madhusudan, and FDA C Sheetal. **BMB**

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Any person having any right, title, claim or interest in Schedule Property must notify the undersigned with documentary proof within **Ten (10) days** of this publication. In case no such notice is received by us within **Ten (10) days** from the date of publication of this notice, it shall be presumed that the title of the aforesaid owner with respect to the Schedule Property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Claims or alleged interest, if any, which are not received within **Ten (10) days** from the date of publication of this notice shall be deemed to have been waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall not be binding on my client.

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West by : Property bearing Sy. No. 71;
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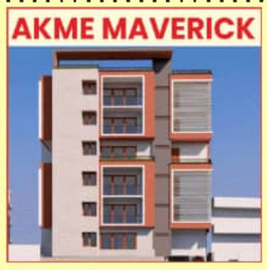

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I Chehring Aneja W/O, Deepak Singh Aneja R/o #h-806 Purva Panorama Kalena Agrahara Bg Road Bengaluru 560076 Karnataka have changed my name to Chehring Kaur Aneja.

I Vijaykanth R s/o Ramachandran r/o 147 5th cross 3rd main Poornapargna Layout, vaddarapalya Bsk 5th stage Bangalore 560061, have changed my name to R VIJAY KANTH For all purposes.

I Hajira Begum Farioz Pasha D/O, Farioz Pasha R/o 20/1, 3rd Main Road, Matadahalli, Rt Nagar Post, Bangalore-32 have changed my name to Hajira Begum.

I, Chaithra Virupaksha R/o 155/1, Vishwas 8th Cross, S.T Bed layout, Koramangala, B'luru-560034 have changed my name to Chaithra Avinash Shenoy.

I, Madhu Ramesh Kumar W/O Ramesh Kumar R/o No 180 Sarjapura M G road Anekal Bengaluru 562125 Have changed my name to Madhu for all Purposes.

I, Bimal Kumar Lohia S/o Motilal Lohia R/o B 401 amoda valmark doddakammanahalli mn rd, near maryyamma temple, b-lore-560083 have changed my name to Bimal Lohiya

I, LAKSHMIDEVI CHALLA. R/at. NO. 15, 5th Main, 1st Cross, LG Lake Dew Bileshivale Kothnur Post Bengaluru -560077. Have changed to CHALLA LAKSHMI vide Afdt Dtd 19.08.2025 Sworn before Notary: Devaraja E.

I, Vinith Wenees Raj Soosairaj, S/o Selvam Loodru Swamy, R/o No 159 5th Cross Anthony Church Nethajinagar K.p Agrahara Bengaluru 560023 Have Changed My to Vinith Wences Raj Soosairaj for All Purposes.

I ABDUL GAFOOR MOHAMMAD HASSAN S/o Hassan Sirur, R/o #8 2nd Main, 1st Block, Near Bank of India, RT Nagar, North Bengaluru Karnataka -560032 have changed my name to ABDUL GAFOOR HASSAN SIRUR

I, Prabhavathi Sadhusekhararaju R/o No.45, Middle school, v v Puram, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru 560004 have changed my name to Prabha Sekhar Affidavit Dt.21/08/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Lakshme Gowda Mallagowdanahalli Nanjegouda R/o 160 Mig 707 Chs 4Th Phase, Yelahanka New Town, B'luru-560064 have changed my name to Lakshme Gouda Mallagowdanahalli Nanjegouda

I, SALEEM PASHA S/o Sunne Jan R/at No.17,1st Cross,2nd Stage, Near BDA Park, HBR Layout, KG Halli, Bangalore-560045. I declare that have changed my name from SALEEM PASHA SUNNE JAN To SALEEM PASHA. Vide Afdt Dtd:19.08.2025 Sworn Before Notary: M RAJENDRA Bangalore.

I, YADUNANDAN KATTI S/o. Sri. Madhu Krishnachar Katti, Resident at No. A-213, SLV Orchid, 3rd Cross, Santosh Nagar, Attur Layout, Yelahnaka, Bengaluru-560064, have changed my name to YADUNANDAN M KATTI vide affidavit dated: 20.08.2025 Sworn before notary: V Anjanappa, Bengaluru

I, Reshma Khanum Mahamood Khan W/o Mahamood Khan R/o 6/9, No-B4,4th Floor Glousia Residency 1st Cross Susheela Rd, Doddamavalli B'lore have changed my name to Reshma Khanum

I, Lokesha.H.G S/o Giriyappa.P R/o No. 41/1, Sihi Mane,5th Main, Ganganagar Extension, Rt Nagar, Bengaluru 560032 have changed my name to Lokesh .H.G for all purposes

I, Monica Abraham D/o Ravi K M, R/o No.25, 'O' 2nd street, Shivan Chetty Garden, Bharathinagar, Bengaluru 560001 have changed my name to Monika Kakde R for all future purposes. Affidavit Dt.22/04/2025 notary S I Balaguru, Bengaluru

I, Soujanya Nidadalli Suresha, S/o Suresha Nidadalli Annappa, R/o No 10 Hadse Kesalur Thirthahalli Taluk, Kadathur Post Shivamogga, Shivamogga, Karnataka 577432,Have Changedmy Name to Soujanya Nidadalli Suresha for All Purposes

I, Mahmood Khan S/o Habeeb Khan R/o 6/9, No-E,4th Floor Glousia Residency 1st Cross Susheela Rd, Doddamavalli B'lore-560004 have changed my name to Mahamood Khan

I, Nazima Mansoor Ali Khan W/o mansoor Ali Khan R/o 104/105,2nd Floor, B-1,3rd Cross lakshmi layout Arekere B'lore-560076 have changed my name to Nazima Khan.

I, Sayyad Hjamaluddin Khanapurid R/o No 2, 2nd Floor Shivajinagar Bangalore 560051, Have Changed to Sayyed Jamaluddin for All Purpose.

I, Mohamad Rafi S Khanapuri R/o No 2, 2nd Floor Shivaji nagar Bangalore 560051, Have Changed My Name From Mohamad Rafi Sayyad Jamaluddin Khanapuri to Mohamad Rafi S Khanapuri for All Purpose.

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GALLERIA

HEALTH TIP: Obesity can be managed by limiting processed, fried, and sugar-rich foods, staying active, getting 7–8 hours of sleep daily

Adding cardamom to tea can help people suffering from asthma, bronchitis, or lingering chest congestion

BangaloreMirror | 9
Friday, August 22, 2025
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Why bad arguments sound convincing

10 tricks of logic that underpin vaccine myths

The biggest lie those who create and spread misinformation perpetrate is that they want you to think for yourself. At the same time they warn you about this, they deploy a range of manipulative tricks to ensure you don't actually think clearly or independently.

One of these tactics is to seduce you into subscribing to "logical fallacies". These are flawed patterns of reasoning that sound convincing but lead to false or misleading conclusions.

Logical fallacies are like optical illusions of thought: convincing on the surface, but ultimately an apparition. If you recognise the most common logical fallacies and understand how they work, they very quickly lose their power.

Here are ten of the most common ones you need to be on the lookout for.

1. Appeal to nature fallacy

Typical claim: Vaccines are unnatural, so they must be bad.
Fallacy: Assumes that natural is always better or safer, which is not logically or scientifically valid. Plenty of natural substances are very harmful or deadly, and plenty of man-made products, including many medicines, are life-saving.

2. Slippery slope fallacy

Typical claim: If we allow vaccine mandates, next we'll lose all medical freedom.
Fallacy: Assumes a minor or reasonable action will inevitably spiral into something more extreme and implausible. Politicians particularly like this tactic.

3. Ad hominem fallacy

Typical claim: You can't trust that doctor, he's obese and doesn't know how to look after himself.
Fallacy: Attacks the person instead of engaging with their argument or evidence. This is usually the go-to strategy when one either has no evidence to back up what they are saying or doesn't have any capacity to engage with the evidence.

4. False dichotomy fallacy

Typical claim: You either trust vaccines or you're a free thinker.
Fallacy: Ignores the nuanced middle ground and oversimplifies the choices. Often this is a version of the "you're either with us or against us" ploy. It frames the debate so that one option is clearly unreasonable, creating the false impression that the right choice is obvious.

5. Straw man fallacy

Typical claim: Pro-vaccine people think vaccines are perfect and have no risks.
Fallacy: This may be the most relied upon tactic by those spreading vaccine misinformation. It relies on misrepresenting the evidence to make it easier to attack. It often involves a number of different tactics such as distorting, cherry picking or oversimplifying the evidence. RFK Jr is a big fan of this tactic.

> **Logical fallacies are flawed patterns of reasoning that sound convincing but lead to false or misleading conclusions**

6. Post hoc fallacy

Typical claim: My child got sick after a vaccine, so the vaccine caused it.
Fallacy: Confuses correlation with causation without considering other explanations. Just because two events occur at about the same time doesn't mean one caused the other. The false belief that the MMR vaccine causes autism stems from a single fraudulent study that wrongly inferred causation from a mere correlation.

7. Bandwagon fallacy (appeal to popularity)

Typical claim: Millions of people are questioning vaccines so there must be something wrong.
Fallacy: Assumes that a widespread belief is equivalent to truth. This is also called the "illusory truth effect" and it's one of the main reasons misinformation has such an influence on social media.

When people find themselves in echo chambers where they are led to believe a view is commonly held, even when it is obviously untrue, they are more likely to believe it. Humans are wired up to follow the herd.

8. Anecdotal fallacy

Typical claim: I know someone who got vaccinated and still got sick so vaccines can't work.
Fallacy: Uses personal stories instead of statistical or scientific evidence. This is equivalent to the reference to the grandmother who smoked a pack of cigarettes a day and lived to be 100 years old. It's often the go-to strategy when there is no evidence to support a claim.

9. Perfectionist fallacy

Typical claim: Vaccines aren't 100% safe and effective, so they are useless.
Fallacy: Rejects a good solution (vaccines) because it is not perfect. No medical intervention is 100 per cent risk-free. Even something universally used like aspirin can have side effects, and so an extension of this logic is that every single therapeutic intervention is useless because it is not perfect, which is absurd.

10. Base rate fallacy

Typical claim: More vaccinated people are getting sick, so vaccines don't work.
Fallacy: In a highly vaccinated population, most people will be vaccinated and inevitably some vaccinated people will still get sick. While the absolute numbers of vaccinated people who get sick will outnumber those who did not get vaccinated and got sick, this is misleading as the proportion will be much smaller due to the sheer numbers of vaccinated individuals in the population.

By Hassan Vally, Deakin University, The Conversation

MIRRORLIGHTS

Review finds youth vaping linked to increased health risks, future smoking

Young people who use e-cigarettes are significantly more likely to later take up cigarette smoking and face a heightened risk of respiratory and mental health issues, according to a global review on youth vaping.

The comprehensive umbrella review, conducted by researchers from the University of York and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, analysed 56 systematic reviews spanning 384 studies worldwide.

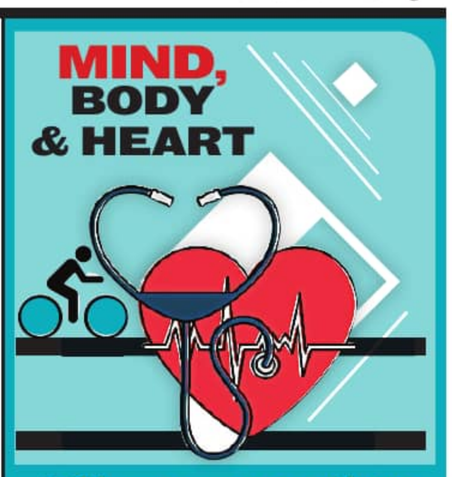
Of these, 21 reviews directly examined the relationship between e-cigarette use among young people and subsequent cigarette smoking habits, reports Xinhua news agency, citing the review findings.

In findings published recently in the journal Tobacco Control, researchers identified a "striking" consistency: young vapers were not only at greater risk of taking up smoking, but were also likely to smoke more frequently and intensely later in life.

The analysis further uncovered an increased likelihood of respiratory illnesses such as asthma and exacerbation of asthma, as well as links to substance abuse, including alcohol and marijuana use.

The study went beyond respiratory concerns, suggesting correlations between youth vaping and other health problems such as pneumonia, bronchitis, lowered sperm counts, dizziness, headaches, migraines, depression, and even suicidal ideation.

–IANS



All you need to know about...

Monsoon weight loss tips

1. Seasonal diet
Ayurveda and Traditional Chinese Medicine both suggest adjusting the dietary habits according to seasonal changes for a healthy body. For monsoon, avoid green leafy vegetables, and eat rather simple food like khichdi and daliyas. Hot nourishing meals with spices and water are preferred to improve immunity and hydrate the body.
Avoid eating salads or raw foods in general save for a few seasonal fruits; even dairy should be avoided as it can slow metabolism, causing weight gain.

2. Movement
Exercising or just moving your body throughout the day is a task, which becomes even more difficult during rainy seasons; with parks being wet and roads often clogged, it is difficult to hit the gym or complete your daily step count.
However, exercising during monsoon becomes even more important as kapha and vata are aggravated, causing water retention and bloating in the body.
Practise at home with 10-minute workout guides. Also, put some music on and dance away for a few minutes anytime throughout the day.

3. Monsoon Blues
The dip in mood and energy levels is caused by a lack of sunlight and increased dampness in the environment, which can make one feel lazy, fatigued, and more prone to cravings, especially for fried and oily comfort foods. These are a big no-no when you are on a weight loss journey.
These physiological and psychological changes create friction and can cause one to relapse or lose motivation to continue. The solution may sound simple, but it is not. The answer lies in willpower, determination, and discipline: one must power through and get your workout done even when you want to sleep in and eat clean no matter what.

–Femina

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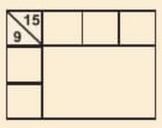
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

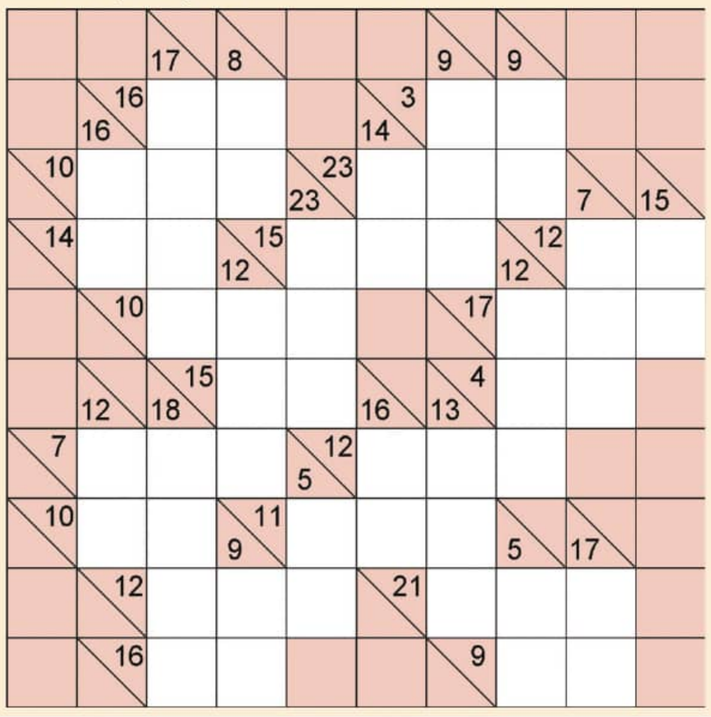
√(3^-2 – 5^-2) x √0.25 + (50/3)^-1= ?

Kakuro

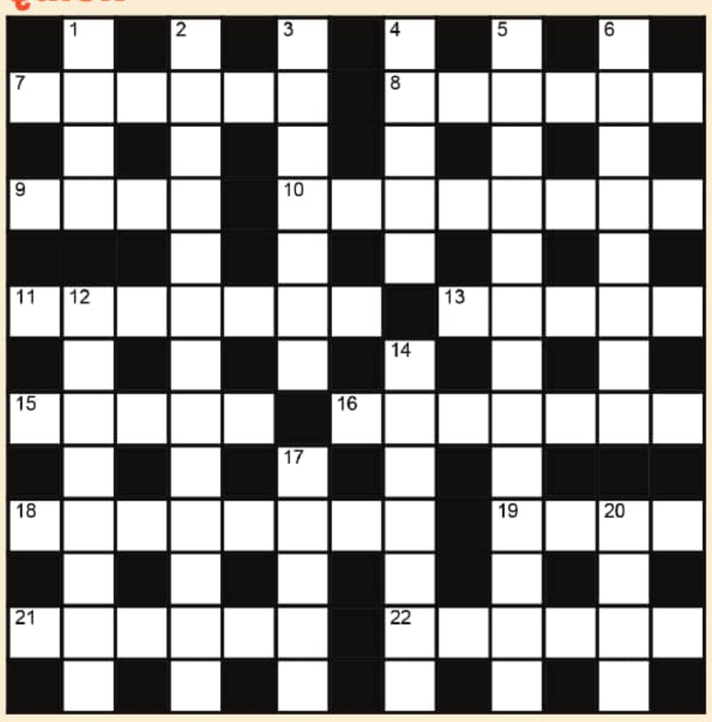
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Caviar producer (6)
8 Tourist destination where R K Narayanan's Malgudi Days was filmed (6)
9 Unfortunately (4)
10 Gathers (8)
11 Comprehensive (7)
13 Point in dispute (5)
15 Harden by habituation (5)
16 Ate one's heart out (7)
18 Close at hand; not far at all (4,4)
19 Devilish ones (4)
21 Government office (6)
22 Employed again (6)

DOWN

1 Hades (4)
2 Songs for children (7,6)
3 Jeer or boo (7)
4 Stalks or follows (5)
5 Inclined to believe in omens and charms (13)
6 Recondite, esoteric (8)
12 Vindictive (8)
14 Italian F1 team (7)
17 Thigh bone (5)
20 Flake off (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS P

BMVX TVQTFV ZRH DV SP S BVXK KQ PSFD RGMQQF S KVFF KMVD, 'XQ, S BVXK KQ PSFDR.'– YNVXKSX KZAZXKSXQ

Linemaro

Can you tell me a bedtime story and tuck me in?

Mindchow

A friend is one that knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you have become, and still, gently allows you to grow

Joke of the day

America: A land where a citizen will cross the ocean to fight for democracy, and won't cross the street to vote in a national election

Loop

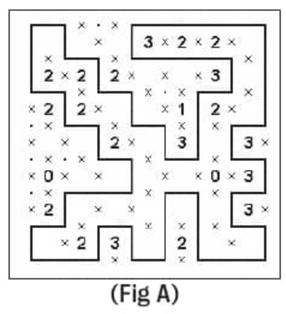
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

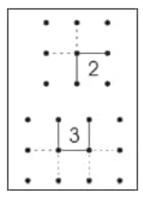
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

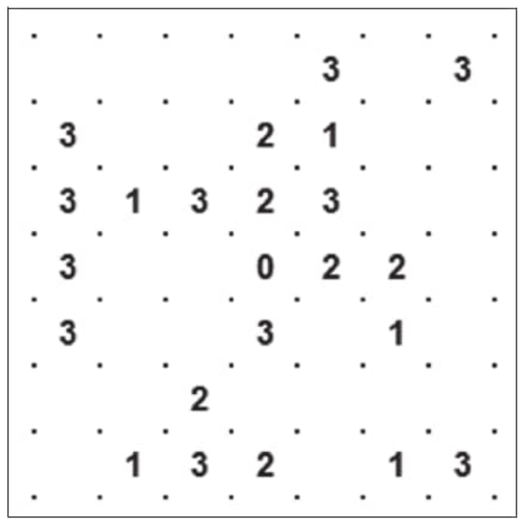
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



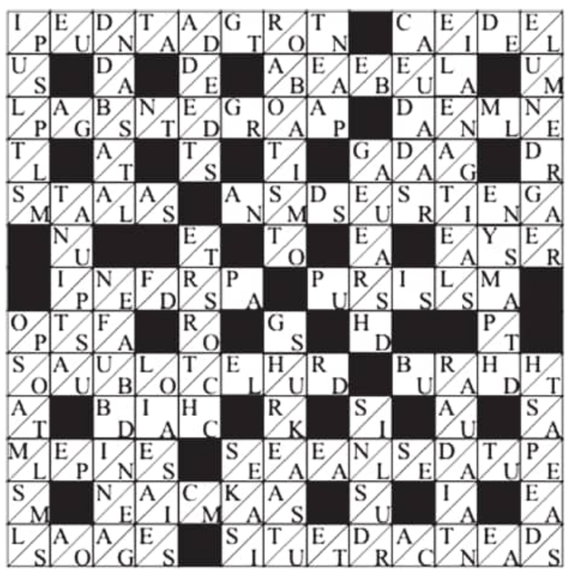
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



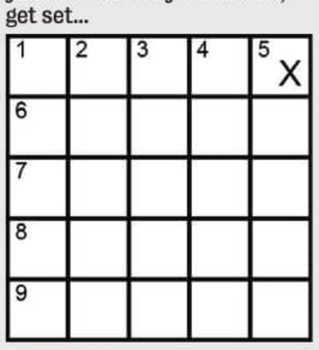
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

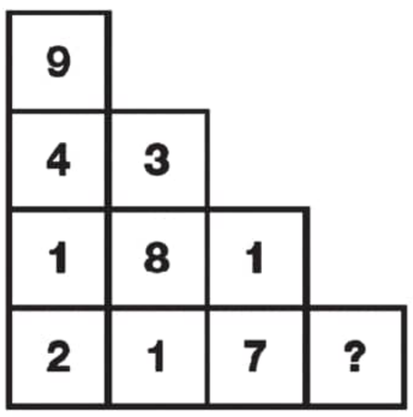
1 If Fax; 6 Liber; 7 Abler; 8 Emile; 9 Scare

DOWN

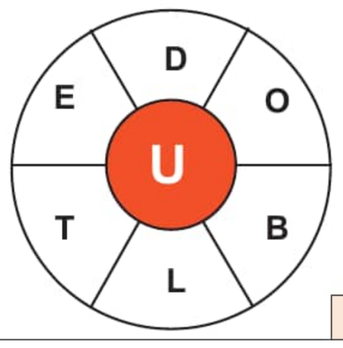
1 Babes; 2 If ell; 3 Refer; 4 Lamia; 5 IC Rex

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	6	8	1		5			
1						6	8	
	9				2			7
7		9	2	8				6
6				3	9	8		4
9			6				4	
	8	7						9
			4		7	2	3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 19

2 4 6 7

Medium

= 45

4 7 8 9

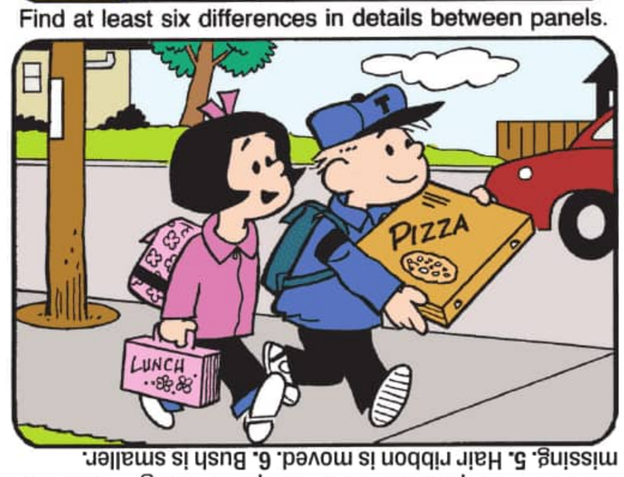
Hard

= 9

3 6 9 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Vent holes added to side of box. 3. Backpack shoulder strap is missing. 4. Window is missing. 5. Hair ribbon is moved. 6. Bush is smaller.

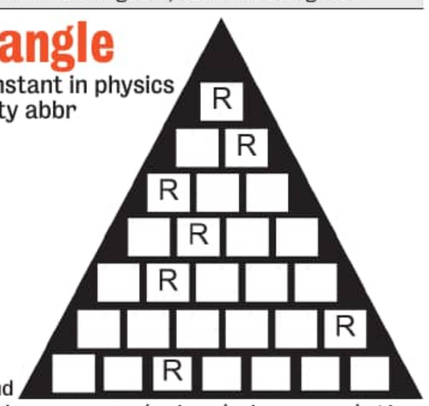
Riddler

In each sentence below, the name of a fruit is hidden. Each of these fruits end with the word 'berry'. You won't find the word 'berry' itself hidden there of course, but try to find the missing part of each fruit to give it its full name.

1. He looked blue in the face from too much exposure to the freezing cold outside.
2. Boys, enter at your own risk!
3. We have a beautiful farm out in the countryside and we own a few goats, duck and one goose.

Alpha triangle

1 Universal gas constant in physics
2 Augmented Reality abbr
3 Scrap of cloth
4 Pull along behind
5 Rank
6 Harass
7 Shorten a book

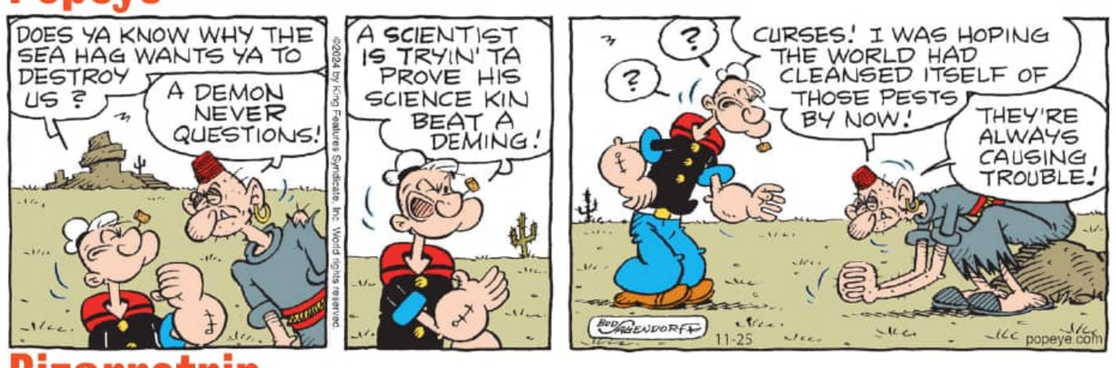


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

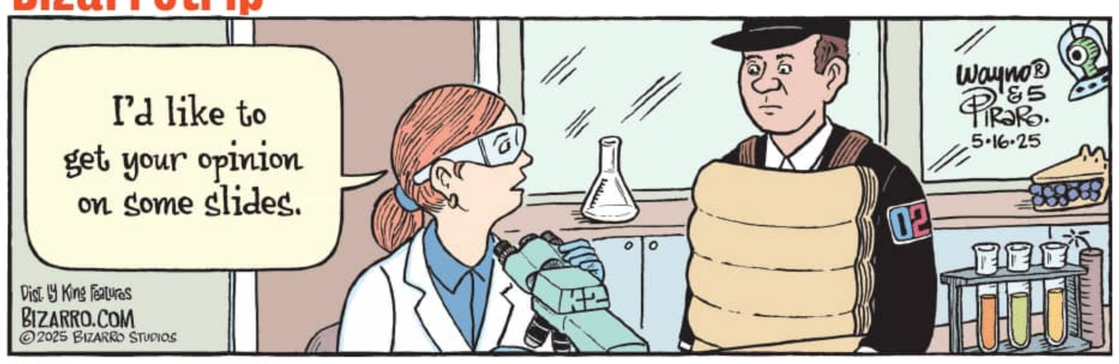
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


DOES YA KNOW WHY THE SEA HAG WANTS YA TO DESTROY US ?
A DEMON NEVER QUESTIONS!
A SCIENTIST IS TRYIN' TA PROVE HIS SCIENCE KIN BEAT A DEMING!
CURSES! I WAS HOPING THE WORLD HAD CLEANSED ITSELF OF THOSE PESTS BY NOW!
THEY'RE ALWAYS CAUSING TROUBLE!
11-25
popeye.com

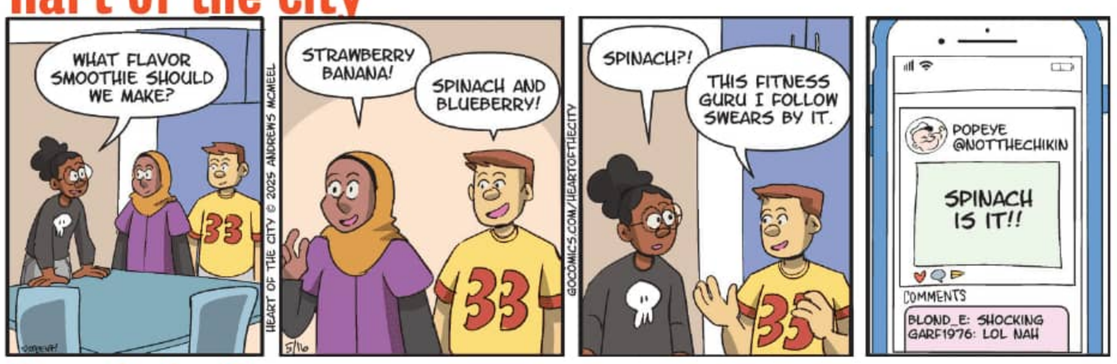
Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. YOU GO TO A FOOD TRUCK...
AND EAT TRUCK?
HEY, DON'T KNOCK IT
THEY MAKE A PAN-SEARED MASTER CYLINDER THAT'S TO DIE FOR
©2025 creators.com 5/16
www.creators.com
Barnett

Hart of the city



Crankshaft

SO HERE'S A THOUGHT ABOUT SOLVING OUR BUS OVERCROWDING PROBLEM...
THEY SAY THE KIDS GET ON A SCHOOL BUS, SO...
NO!!
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BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
5-16

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today brings positivity and enthusiasm. Your energy will earn you respect from those around you. You may spend time engaging in intellectual pursuits or plan for higher studies to advance your career. Students could receive encouraging news, especially in competitive exams.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
The day may start on a slow note, but by evening you'll overcome negativity. New contacts could emerge in your professional circle, helping you refresh your business plans. Before signing any documents, make sure to read them carefully.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
With divine blessings, you'll overcome indecisiveness today. Children's health will improve, and your colleagues will be supportive, leading to success in your projects. You may also receive incentives along with your salary. Those involved in dairy, water-related projects, grains, homemaking, or arts and culture may see promising results.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Family gatherings and social events will keep you busy. Your polite nature will win the appreciation of those around you, enhancing your reputation. Spending on decorative items or household goods could improve your social status. You might also receive good news from a close relative.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Blessed by the Moon, you'll feel healthy and confident today. Your performance will shine in all areas of life, boosting your prestige. Strong concentration will help you make important business decisions that could foster growth.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Your energy levels may feel low, and an old health issue might resurface. Avoid adventurous trips and rash driving. Legal matters are better resolved amicably rather than through litigation. Stay away from unnecessary arguments and consider planning an overseas trip.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
The day begins on a cheerful note. Quick decisions at work will showcase your management skills and lead to benefits in the future. A new source of income could improve your finances. With your business partner's support, you may invest in a profitable venture. Stronger bonds with your spouse will bring harmony at home.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Work responsibilities may leave you tired and unable to fully engage in family gatherings. You could build valuable overseas connections but should be cautious with investments. Employees may receive promotions, bringing professional satisfaction.

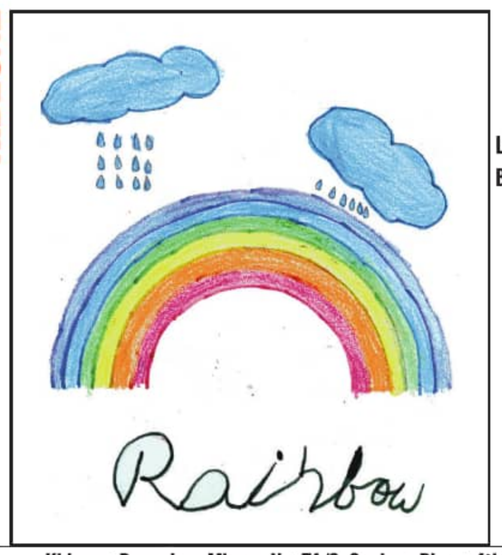
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Things are now under control, and luck is on your side in business matters. Your efforts may be rewarded, and it's a good time to restart delayed projects. Peaceful spiritual travel is possible, along with charitable donations to religious causes.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
The Moon's unfavorable position could affect your health and lead to financial setbacks. Avoid making new investments or risky business moves, as gains could turn into losses. Stay clear of controversies that might harm your reputation.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Moon's blessings may bring good news in your career. Your domestic life will be filled with joy. Avoid arguments over trivial matters and manage your excitement to maintain patience. This is a favorable time for real estate investments. Students will stay focused and productive.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
The Moon's blessings will favor your personal life, and romance may flourish. Singles could meet a compatible partner. Professionally, you'll perform well with support from friends and subordinates. Investments in gems and jewellery could yield future gains. Pay extra attention to the health of elders in your family.

KIDZONE



Lakshya, Bengaluru

Deeksha, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
√(1/9 - 1/25) * (1/2) + (3/50)
√(16 / 225) * (1/2) + (3/50)
(4/15) * (1/2) + (3/50)
(2/15) + (3/50) = 29/150

RIDDLER
1. Blueberry,
2. Boysberry,
3. Gooseberry

BULL'S EYE
blue, bout, debut, double, DOUBLET, doubt, duel, duet, loud, lout, lute, tube

FAST FIVE

S	E	R	A	C
E	L	E	M	I
B	L	E	A	R
B	I	R	L	E
A	F	F	I	X

STRIKE OUT

P	E	N	T	A	G	O	N		C	E	D	E		
U		A		D		B	A	B	E	L		M		
L	A	S	T	D	R	O	P		D	E	M	E		
L		A		S		I		G	A	G		R		
S	A	L	A		A	S	S	U	R	I	N	G		
	I	N	F	R	A		P	R	I	S	M			
P	T	A		T		A		E	Y	E				
S	A	B	O	T	E	U	R		B	A	H	T		
A		B	A	H		R		S		U		A		
L	E	I	S		S	E	A	L	E	D	U	P		
M		N	I	C	K	S		U		I		E		
S	A	G	S		I	T	E	R	A	T	E	S		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
4. The average of the numbers in each column is always 4.

QUOTE UNCODE
When people ask me if I went to film school I tell them, 'no, I went to films.' – Quentin Tarantino

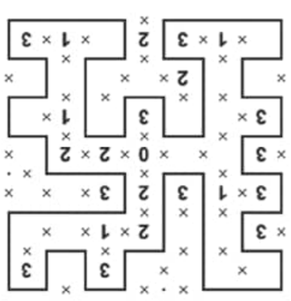
SUDOKU

5	1	6	4	9	7	2	3	8
4	8	7	3	2	1	5	6	9
9	3	2	6	5	8	7	4	1
6	2	1	5	3	9	8	7	4
8	4	3	7	1	6	9	2	5
7	5	9	2	8	4	3	1	6
3	9	4	8	6	2	1	5	7
1	7	5	9	4	3	6	8	2
2	6	8	1	7	5	4	9	3

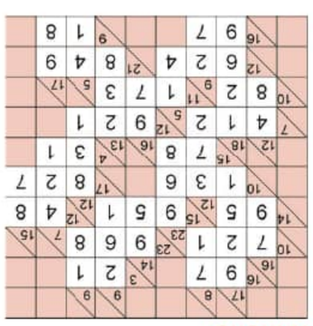
ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Ar, Rag, Drag, Grade, Badger, Abridge.

GO FIGURE
2 + 6 + 7 + 4 = 19
Easy
4 x 7 + 8 + 9 = 45
Medium
3 + 6 – 8 x 9 = 9
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



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All agog

Director Homi Adajania is creating buzz with his upcoming film Cocktail 2, starring Rashmika Mandanna and Kriti Sanon in the lead roles, with Shahid Kapoor reportedly playing the male lead. Recently, the director shared a behind-the-scenes (BTS) photo confirming Rashmika and Kriti's roles. Rashmika also gave fans a sneak peek on Wednesday into her preparation for the film by posting a BTS picture on her social media and wrote,"One step at a time."

The director recently shared a behind-the-scenes black-and-white photo of Kriti Sanon from his upcoming film Cocktail 2 on Instagram. Captioned, "@kritisanon Laugh & love #cocktail2 #prep". The photo, tagged with WORK IN PROGRESS, instantly caught the attention, sparking curiosity around Kriti's look and her role in the sequel. The actress also reposted the photo on her Instagram stories with the caption "Getting there.. one step at a time.. #cocktail2". Celebrity stylist Anaita Shroff Adajania, Homi Adajania's wife, added to the excitement by sharing a glimpse of the 'Cocktail 2' script on her Instagram story. This will be Kriti and Shahid Kapoor's second film together after their hit pairing in 'Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya' in 2024. **-ETimes**

New chapter

Sam spills the tea on fresh approach she is taking in her career

Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who has given her best in her acting career over 15 years, is now stepping into a refreshing new chapter of her career. In a recent interview, she shared that she has deliberately chosen to slow down her pace and focus only on projects that deeply connect with her. This new phase, she said, is all about wellness, intention, and giving her best with complete dedication.

In a chat with Grazia India, the actress said, "I've reached a point where I do things I'm extremely passionate about, and that includes both fitness and films."

She further said that not every film or series she worked on was something she was truly passionate about, but now whether it's acting, producing, or investing in businesses, she has all her heart.

Samantha revealed that she no longer takes on several projects at once, instead choosing to focus on caring for her physical and mental health. "I no longer shoot five films at a time. One thing I've realised is that I need to listen to my body, so I've reduced the amount of work I do. But now everything I do and put my energy into matters so much more. Nothing is for the heck of it. The quantity may have reduced, but the quality of projects has definitely increased," the actress added.

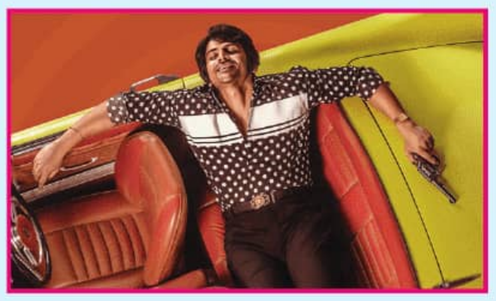
On the work front, Samantha recently appeared in a cameo role in the Telugu film 'Subham'. She was last seen in Prime Video's action-packed series 'Citadel: Honey Bunny', where she starred opposite Varun Dhawan in a spy thriller created by Raj and DK.

Looking ahead, Samantha will feature in 'Rakt Brahmand: The Bloody Kingdom', another high-energy series directed by Raj and DK. **-ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

New look unveiled



Good news for Daali Dhananjaya fans -- the team of 666 Operation Dream Theater has released a new poster on the occasion of the actor's birthday. The new poster showcases him in a retro getup with a gun in hand. Dhananjaya is seen dreaming big in a car. Last year, Dhananjaya took instagram to apologise to his fans for not being able to meet them on the occasion of his birthday so this year everybody is looking forward to meeting him on August 23.

According to reliable sources, the shooting of 666 Operation Dream Theater is in progress at Sri Kanteerava Studios in the city. A huge set was put up for the shooting and Dr Shivarajkumar and Dhananjaya participated in the shooting. The movie is being bankrolled by Dr Vaishak J Gowda under the Vaishak J Films banner. It is directed by Hemanth M Rao. Dr Shivarajkumar is sharing the screen with Dhananjaya in this movie. They were also seen together in Tagaru and Bhairagi. Charan Raj is scoring music while Adhvaith Gurumurthy is working behind the camera.

On journalists

Niranjan Sudhindra, the nephew of Real Star Upendra, is excited about his latest movie Spark. The teaser of the movie was unveiled at MMB Legacy on Wednesday on the occasion of Niranjan's birthday. Niranjan plays a journalist in the movie while Rachana Inder is paired opposite him. Lovely Star Prem plays the villain in the movie that revolves around a group of journalists. The movie is bankrolled by Garima Avinash under the Garima Avinash Productions banner while D Mahantesh Handral makes debut as director in Sandalwood with this movie.

Handral said that the movie is about a journalist who fights injustice, corruption and atrocities in society. "I am very happy with the dedication and hard work of Niranjan. I am grateful to Prem sir for agreeing to act in this movie," said the director.

Niranjan thanked Prem for agreeing to share the screen with him. "Prem sir looks different in the movie. His style of acting is awesome. Rachana Inder has acted well," said Niranjan.

Prem said he has been waiting for quite a long time to play the villain.

JLo back in the game 1 year after split

Jennifer Lopez seems to be focusing on her work and personal happiness a year after her split from Ben Affleck.

The actor-singer, who turned 56 in July, has been keeping busy with concerts, films, and new projects. Over the summer, Lopez went on her "Up All Night Tour" across the globe.

A source told PEOPLE that she has been "having the time of her life" while performing for fans. The source added, "She loved connecting with fans all over the world. The tour was amazing. It's been a great focus for her. She's been doing what she really enjoys." Lopez, who is mother to 17-year-old twins Max and Emme, is also preparing for the release of her new movie musical 'Kiss of the Spider Woman.'

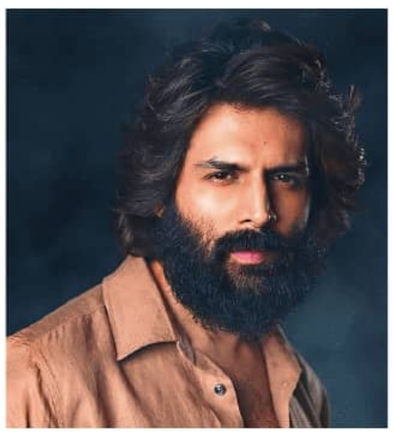
The film was shot last year in New York when, according to the source, she and Affleck were "going through a difficult time."

The insider shared that Lopez has "come a long way since. She's very happy and just grateful for her life."

Lopez and Affleck officially finalised their divorce in January 2025 **-ANI**

Busy schedule

For Kartik Aaryan, this year has been nothing short of a busy one. From juggling multiple films to balancing looks for different roles, the actor has had little breathing space. Fresh from completing a major schedule of 'Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri' alongside Ananya Panday, Kartik is now gearing up for the final leg of Anurag Basu's yet-untitled romantic drama, co-starring Telugu star Sreeleela.



As reported by Mid Day, the shoot, planned right after the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations in Mumbai, will run for 45 days straight, aiming to wrap up by the end of this year. The target is clear—an April 2026 release that promises to showcase Kartik in a new light.

Amid the excitement, rumours about delays and script rewrites had begun swirling, particularly with people drawing parallels to Mohit Suri's 'Aashiqui 3'. Anurag Basu, however, has set the record straight. "Mohit and I are very close. The only similarity between our films is that the male lead is a rockstar—the stories are otherwise very different," he clarified in an interview with Mid Day.

Interestingly, Kartik's look has become a point of focus. With 40% of the film already shot, Anurag revealed that upcoming scenes require Kartik to be clean-shaven. **-ETimes**